Infrastructure facilities in cities and towns have not kept pace with the increase in the urban population.

(c) The Government has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with effect from December 3, 2005 to address the issues of provision of housing and civic amenities to urban poor/slum dwellers, in addition to city-wide infrastructure facilities. The Mission includes all metropolitan cities. The Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) programme under JNNURM addresses housing and civic amenities in 65 Mission cities. Similar problems of Non-Mission cities are addressed through the scheme of Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The Mission period is 2005-2012. Achievements made so far under JNNURM (BSUP & IHSDP) are:

Number of Projects Approved	1304
Number of Houses for the Poor Approved	14.59 Lakh
Number of Houses Completed	1.80 Lakh
Number of Houses in Progress	4.38 Lakh
Total Project Cost Approved	Rs.33860 Crore
Additional Central Assistance Committed	Rs.18141 Crore
Additional Central Assistance Released	Rs.7204.7 Crore

(d) Urban development and land being State subjects, slum development falls within the purview of the State Governments. Slum Acts are enacted by the States and as and when a need arises, amendments to these Acts are carried out by them suiting their local needs.

Steep rise in prices of building material in the capital

†1586. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices .of building material, especially in Capital have risen steeply;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would be able to help common man to achieve their dreams of having their houses built in metropolitan cities including the capital?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) As per the information given by the Construction Industry Development Council, the average price of construction material has been rising at a normal pace of 5% to 6% per annum during the last two months.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for some of the materials generally used in the construction of building is given below:

Commodities	Wholesale Price Index (WPI) (Base year: 1993-94=100)						
	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09
Building Bricks	398.6	403.5	403.5	403.5	403.5	403.5	403.5
Ceramic tiles	167.1	167.1	167.1	167.1	167.1	167.1	167.1
Cement	227.9	228.1	229.9	230.8	229.6	228.1	225.8
Asbestos cement corrugated sheets	119.5	119.5	119.5	119.5	116.7	118.1	116.7
Iron & Steel	285.8	286.3	286.4	286.5	293.9	294.4	289.9
Foundry pig iron	271.6	275.6	278.3	280.9	277.9	280.1	281.7
Pipes Wires Drawing & Others	229.0	229.7	229.4	229.9	233.6	232.7	234.5

(Figures of Sep-09 and Oct-09 are provisional)

(c) 'Land' and 'Colonisation' being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to provide for adequate Shelter. However, the Union Government has taken following steps:

1. Formulated the first urban area focused National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, 2007 with the objective of providing 'Affordable Housing for All', particularly the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG). This policy intends to promote sustainable development of habitat in the country with a view to ensuring equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society.

2. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched in 2005 caters to provision of housing and basic services to urban poor in sixty five specified cities through its Sub-Mission 'Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP), and in other cities and towns through Sub Mission 'Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).

3. A new scheme, namely, Interest Subsidy Scheme for Housing the Urban Poor (ISHUP) has been launched for providing interest subsidy on housing urban poor to make the housing affordable and within the repaying capacity of Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)/ Low Income Group (LIG). The scheme encourages poor sections to avail of loan facilities through Commercial Banks/Housing Finance Companies for the purposes of construction/acquisition of houses and avail 5% subsidy in interest payment for loans up to Rs. 1 lakh.

4. Under another newly launched Scheme, namely 'Affordable Housing in Partnership', with a view to encourage allotment of land for EWS, Central Government assistance will be provided on a progressive scale vis-a-vis built up area earmarked for EWS/LIG as a percentage of total constructed area. The assistance would be available for the provision of civic services such as water supply including ground level/overhead service reservoirs, storm water drainage, solid waste management, sewerage including common sewerage treatment facilities, rain water harvesting, approach roads, electricity lines etc.

Housing shortage in the country

†1587. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of houses in the urban areas of the country is rising by the day;

(b) if so, the expected shortage of houses in the country during the year 2008 and 2009 as of now;

(c) whether Government has formulated any housing policy to remove the shortage of houses in the urban areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government for the implementation of the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Technical Group constituted by the Ministry in 2006 to assess the urban housing shortage has estimated that at the end of the 10th Five Year Plan (2007-08), the total housing shortage in the country was 24.71 million. Further, an additional requirement of 1.82 million dwelling units has been projected for the 11th Plan, bringing the total housing requirement during the 11th Plan Period to 26.53 Million dwelling units.

(c) and (d) The Union Government has formulated the first urban area focused National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy, 2007 to set in motion a process in providing 'Affordable Housing for All' particularly the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi